

Important Insurance Notice

SPECIAL OPT-OUT OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1-30, 2002

ATTENTION: State of Illinois full-time employees, retirees and survivors, you may now elect NOT to participate in the health/dental/vision coverage of the State of Illinois Group Insurance Program. Deadline for the special opt-out open enrollment period is September 30, 2002.

No other benefit changes may be made at this time!

If you DO NOT want to terminate your health/dental/vision insurance, you do not have to do anything.

If you DO wish to opt out of your coverage, please contact the Insurance Section of the State Employees' Retirement System at 217-785-7150 or 312-814-5853 and the necessary application form and instructions will be mailed to you. The TTD number is 217-785-7218.

What is the special opt-out?

For the first time, any member eligible for and/or enrolled in the State of Illinois Group Insurance Program may elect not to participate in the Program if they have proof of other comprehensive health coverage.

Members who opt-out will no longer be enrolled in the health/dental/vision coverage through the Department of Central Management Services (CMS).

This opt-out election is completely voluntary, and there is no financial incentives or considerations available to those who decide to opt-out.

Who is eligible for the opt-out?

State of Illinois full-time employees, retirees, and survivors may elect to opt-out of the health/dental/vision coverage.

Proof of enrollment in another health plan--either comprehensive major medical or comprehensive managed care--other than the plans administered by CMS (**including the Local Government Health Plan, Teachers' Retirement Insurance Program, or College Insurance Program**) is required.

However, the Group Insurance Act prohibits state employees or retirees from declining their own coverage to become a dependent of another state employee or retiree.

When does opt-out take effect?

The earliest termination date will be December 1, 2002 if proper documentation has been submitted by the member and approved by the Department of Central Management Services (CMS).

What other times can a member opt-out of the health/dental/vision program?

After the special open enrollment period of September, 2002, members may opt out of health, dental, vision coverage only during the Benefit Choice Enrollment Period (held in May of each year) or within 60 days of a qualified change in family status.

If a member elects to opt-out and then reenrolls in the group insurance program at a later date, what is the impact?

If a member chooses to reenroll in the CMS administered health plans, the individual has to provide a certificate of creditable coverage from a previous insurance carrier indicating there was not a break in coverage of more than 63 days, or pre-existing limitations would apply.



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As Americans live longer, you can expect to live more years in retirement than adolescence. To help make these added years more meaningful and rewarding, SRS offers the Myths and Realities of Retirement workshop to retirees, survivors, disability benefit recipients and their guests.

This free, one-day workshop examines financial scams, the effects of inflation, estate planning, group insurance benefits, and health & leisure.

If you would like to attend an MRR workshop, complete the application and return it to us. After you are registered, we will confirm your enrollment by letting you know the exact workshop location.

Name _____

Social Security Number _____

Are You Bringing a Guest? _____

Return This Form To:

State Retirement Systems, Field Services Division
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